



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

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M/037/084

October 16, 1995

Brad T. Barber
State Planning Coordinator
RDCC
116 State Capitol Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Re: Cotter Corporation Expansion of Papoose Small Mine Operation to a Large Mine Operation, M/037/084, (ML 45609), San Juan County, Utah

Dear Mr. Barber:

The Division received the RDCC comments regarding the above mentioned limestone surface mine on October 13, 1995. We will forward these comments to the land managing agency, School Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) and the operator, Cotter Corporation, along with a copy of this letter.

With respect to the RDCC comment requesting that the operator reclaim the disturbed area to the current level of habitat value, we believe the reclamation of the mine area will improve the habitat values by increasing vegetation diversity and ground cover in what was previously pinion-juniper type habitat.

With respect to the RDCC comment regarding clearance type surveys of the expansion area for burrowing owls, prairie dog colonies and black-footed ferrets, we believe these surveys are unnecessary for the pinion-juniper habitat area affected by the mine expansion. With respect to the RDCC comment regarding raptor nesting areas, we will suggest that the operator perform raptor surveys within one-half mile of the expansion area.

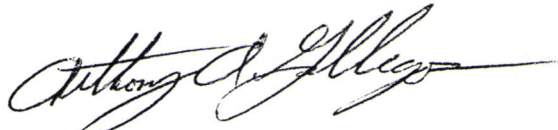
We do not believe these RDCC comments are substantive enough to cause the Division to deny final approval of Cotter Corporation's Large Mine Operation Notice of Intention.



Page 2
Brad T. Barber
Papoose Mine
October 16, 1995

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter. If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact me or Wayne Hedberg here at the Division.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony A. Gallegos", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anthony A. Gallegos
Senior Reclamation Specialist

jb
cc: Will Stokes, SITLA w/copy of RDCC letter
Jon Showalter, Cotter Corp. w/copy of RDCC letter
M37-84.RDC



State of Utah

M/037/084

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET
Resource Development Coordinating Committee



Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

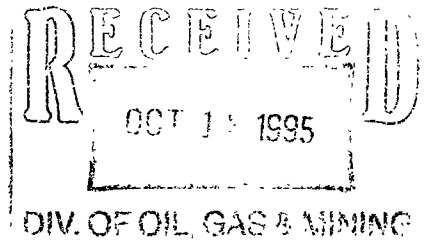
Brad T. Barber
State Planning Coordinator

Catherine Quinn
Committee Chairman

John A. Harja
Executive Director

116 State Capitol Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
(801) 538-1027
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October 6, 1995



Wayne Hedberg
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
355 West North Temple, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

SUBJECT: Cotter Corporation Expansion of Papoose small mining operation to large mine
status ML 45609
State Identification Number: UT950907-020

Dear Mr. Hedberg:

The Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC), representing the State of Utah, has reviewed this proposal. The Division of Wildlife Resources comments:

The mine expansion will impact wildlife habitat. The permit should contain provisions to ensure the area is reclaimed to the current level of habitat value.

Because the operation is within the distribution of several sensitive wildlife species, clearance type surveys should be conducted. The area should be surveyed for raptors nesting within one-half mile of the mine expansion site. A survey for burrowing owls within the expansion area should also be completed. Prairie dog colonies within the expansion area should be surveyed for black-footed ferrets, prior to the issuance of the permit.

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Morris or Bill Bates in our Southeastern Region office at 637-3310.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity to review this proposal. Please direct any other written questions regarding this correspondence to the Utah State Clearinghouse at the above address or call Carolyn Wright at (801) 538-1535, Nancy Keate at (801) 538-1548, or John Harja at (801) 538-1559.

Sincerely,

Brad T. Barber
State Planning Coordinator

BTB/ar